Monitor Newsletter July 15, 1985

Bowling Green State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/monitor

Recommended Citation
https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/monitor/783

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the University Publications at ScholarWorks@BGSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Monitor by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@BGSU.
New book examines attitudes of Americans toward wilderness

Wilderness — is there intrinsic value in its mountains, forests, and deserts or does the value of its land lie in the potential for development? Americans have wrestled with this question for most of the past 150 years. Beginning in the early 19th century, some saw it as a place to be preserved at all costs; others as a threat to civilization — an obstacle to progress and prosperity.

A Bowling Green assistant professor of English and American studies has been particularly intrigued by the wilderness controversy, devoting much of the last seven years to studying Americans' attitudes toward the wilderness. In particular, he has examined attitudes toward the Adirondack Forest Preserve in upstate New York.

Philip G. Terrie has published his findings in a new book, Forever Wild: Environmental Aesthetics and the Adirondack Forest Preserve, recently released by the Temple University Press. The book is part of a Temple series on "American Civilization."

Dr. Terrie describes his book as a cultural history of the mind, focusing on Americans' attitudes toward the Adirondacks where he has lived and worked periodically for the past 20 years. New York, he notes, has the largest publicly owned wilderness area east of the Mississippi.

"I first saw that area in 1966," he said, "and I immediately fell in love with it." He spent six summers there as a camp counselor and was later an assistant curator of the Adirondack Museum at Blue Mountain Lake.

His major discovery from paging through hundreds of government documents, travel and sport narratives and annual reports of conservation agencies is that Americans' attitudes toward the Adirondack wilderness have been ambivalent throughout most of the past 150 years. From the early 19th century, "romantic" Americans viewed the wilderness as "a place to redeem their fallen souls," Dr. Terrie said. On the other hand, there were those who viewed the area as a threat to progress.

That kind of controversy subsided only when the lumbering industry began to threaten the watershed which fed the Erie Canal, Dr. Terrie said, noting that the canal was essential to furthering the New York economy at that time.

It was only then, at the very end of the 19th century, that New York State incorporated into its constitution an article which guarantees that "the lands of the state...constituting the forest preserve...shall be forever kept as wild forest lands."

Dr. Terrie noted that while that "forever wild" principle has been maintained in the state constitution, attitudes toward the wilderness continued to change, eventually evolving to what he describes as the current "new wilderness aesthetic" which is a blend of science and romanticism. In essence, he said, the wilderness today is viewed as a place where the scientific processes of nature should be allowed to proceed unhindered.

Since 1984, when the Wilderness Act reflects that attitude: "A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

Dr. Terrie noted that his book is a cultural history of values, perceptions and aesthetics relating to the environment, adding that environmental history is a growing field and that his findings in the Adirondack region are typical of national trends analyzed by other scholars.

He received his doctoral degree in American studies from George Washington University and has been teaching American literature and American studies at the University the past five years. Among his favorite courses are those on American wilderness and American nature writing.

New editor selected for Monitor

Paul Kostyu, formerly a news bureau chief for The Greensboro News and Record in Greensboro, N.C., is the new editor of Monitor.

Kostyu succeeds Linda Swaisgood who has edited the publication the past seven years and accepted other assignments in the Office of Public Relations. All communications for the Monitor are now directed to Kostyu in the Office of Public Relations, 806 Administration Bldg., 372-2616. Swaisgood has moved to 516 Administration Bldg. and can be reached at 372-2716.

A graduate of Heidelberg College, Kostyu received a master's degree in popular culture from Bowling Green in 1981. He has covered news and editorial positions at The Greensboro News and Record the past seven years and was the area news editor for The Advertiser-Tribune in Tiffin from 1973-1978. He has taught journalism at Heidelberg College and coached track and cross country at both Heidelberg and Tiffin University. In 1981-82 he studied at the University College of North Wales with a Rotary International Foundation Award for Journalism.

Test portends skills proficiency

New accounts of teachers who cannot spell correctly or write coherently probably represent a very small percentage of the nation's professional teaching corps, in the opinion of Fred L. Pigge, director of education research and services.

To test his theory, Dr. Pigge recently administered a basic skills test to 268 education majors at Bowling Green, with very positive results.

The students all were enrolled in the College of Education's introductory teacher-education course, "Exploring the Profession." Most were freshmen or sophomores.

According to Dr. Pigge, the test, constructed by McGraw Hill Publishing Co., was specially designed to test high school seniors who are planning to attend college.

"We chose this test because it is similar to, but more comprehensive than, the Pre-Professional Skills Test that many Ohio schools now require of their candidates for teaching positions," Dr. Pigge said. The test covers vocabulary, reading comprehension, spelling, grammar and mathematics.

When scores of the University students were compared to a national sampling of high school seniors planning to attend college, half of the University students scored better or about the same as national comparison group's 80th percentile — or better than 80 percent of all end-of-the-year high school seniors who took the test. Ninety-four percent of the Bowling Green students scored at or above the 50th percentile.

"Assuming that this group is representative of all teaching majors at Bowling Green, I would predict that better than 90 percent of our students have no trouble at all passing the skills portion of the National Teacher Examination, the PPST or any other competency tests that the various states are using," Dr. Pigge said.

"It would seem that the basic skill proficiency of a typical BGU education major is certainly higher than those education majors and teachers who have gained press notoriety for their lack of skills."

According to Sandra Peckard, dean of the College of Education, an increasing number of Ohio schools are requiring candidates for teaching positions to take a basic skills test prior to their consideration for a teaching position.

"The PPST seems to be the most popular in our state, while others are requiring the National Teacher Examination," she said. "Our college faculty have serious concerns about the ability of a pencil and paper test to predict teaching success, but, at the same time, we want to ensure that the American people that newly graduated teachers are competent and able in basic communication and computational skills and have a strong base of general knowledge. We are very pleased with the results of Dr. Pigge's study, which shows that the vast majority of our students are well versed in this knowledge."
In Brief

PROGRAMMING HELP AVAILABLE
If you have computer software needs but don't have the time, money or skills to develop your own programs, the computer science department may be able to help. A senior/graduate level course in software development will be taught during the fall semester by the department. As part of the course, teams of students will be asked to design and develop software packages for outside users. The instructors are now soliciting actual software projects from the University community as possible assignments for the course.

3,300 freshmen expected
The University will continue to accept applications from prospective freshmen for the fall semester until July 29, according to John W. Martin, admissions. Martin said more than 8,100 prospective students have sought admission to the University for the fall term. A freshman class of 3,300 is anticipated when classes begin next month.

Applications from transfer students requiring on-campus housing are no longer being accepted. Transfer students eligible to live off campus may still apply.

Once admissions are closed on July 29, prospective students will have the option to either apply for fall admission at the Firelands campus or to request admission on the main campus for the spring semester which will begin in January 1986.

Obituaries

Louise Rees, 76, professor emerita of library and educational media, died July 1 in Ann Arbor, Mich. She joined the faculty as chair of the department of library science in 1964, remaining as chair until 1974 and retiring in 1978. It was during her term as chair that the department was renamed the department of library and educational media in 1971. Rees was a resident of Bowling Green until the time of her death.

Sara J. Neal, 52, a part-time employee of the Office of Registration and Records, died July 7 in Toledo. She joined the office in September 1960 to assist during the drop/add periods of registration. Surviving are her husband, Arthur G., sociology, and two children at home.

Departments name chairs
Several new department chairs have been appointed within the College of Business Administration for the 1985-86 academic year.

David Hyslop, business education, has assumed the chair of that department following the retirement of Mearl Guthrie, who had served as chair since 1957. In the department of management, Chan Hahn has returned from leave, replacing acting chair Peter Pinto.

Also, LTC John Debay has replaced LTC Carl Chaboudy as chair of the department of military science.

In the College of Education, Deanna J. Radeloff has been appointed acting chair of the department of early childhood education, effective July 1. Dr. Radeloff succeeds Elsa McMullen who is returning to full-time teaching.

FEE WAIVER FORMS DUE
Employees are reminded of the Office of the Bursar that Dependent/Employee Fee Waiver forms for the fall semester should be completed and forwarded as soon as possible. The fall term begins Aug. 28.

Employment Opportunities

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYMENT

* Indicates that an internal candidate from the department is bidding and being considered for the position.

NEW VACANCIES

Posting Expiration Date for Employees to Apply: 5 p.m. Monday, July 22, 1985

7-22-1 Clerical Specialist
Pay Range 25

College of Technology/Cooperative Education
Permanent part-time

7-22-2 Clerk 2
Pay Range 3
Registration and Records
Permanent part-time

7-22-3 Custodial Worker
and
Pay Range 2
Plant Maintenance
Two full-time positions

7-22-5 Data Entry Operator 1
thru
Pay Range 1
Registration and Records
10 six-month, part-time positions

7-22-15 Food Service Manager 1
Pay Range 27
University Food Operations

7-22-16 Nurse 1
Pay Range 29
Student Health Center
Nine-month, full time

7-22-17 Typist 2
Pay Range 4
BGSU Popular Press
Permanent part-time

CONTINUING VACANCIES

Posting Expiration Date for Employees to Apply: 5 p.m. Monday, July 15, 1985

7-15-1 Clerk 1
Pay Range 2
A Program Adviser/College of Technology
Temporary part-time to May 16, 1986

7-15-2 Custodial Worker
Pay Range 2
Plant Operations and Maintenance

7-15-3 Program Analyst 1
Pay Range 28

7-15-4 Secretary 1
Pay Range 26

Environmental Services